



# Issue Forum

# **ACCESS**

Sustainable Recreation Work Group

Presented:

February 4, 2009



# Forum Objectives

- Review initial background information related to access for recreation and the availability of access related information. Determine additional information needs.
- Discuss the scope and the important elements of the access issue.
- Prepare for the next, more focused discussion on access and preliminary recommendations for deliberation by the full Sustainable Recreation Work Group in May.



# Agenda

- 1:30 p.m. **Forum discussion begins**
- 5 minutes **Welcome and meeting objectives**
- 5 minutes **Review GoToMeeting® techniques for all callers.**
- 5 minutes **Review policy context for access**
- 30 minutes **Review background document on access and availability of information**
- 30 minutes **Brainstorm**
- 5 minutes **Plan for next meeting**
- 5 minutes **Feedback: How did this meeting format work for you?**
- 5 minutes **Wrap up**



# **Policy Context**

- **What does public access on state lands mean?**
- **What is the practical nature of providing access?**
- **What are the access opportunities now, and what should they be in the future?**



# Background on Access

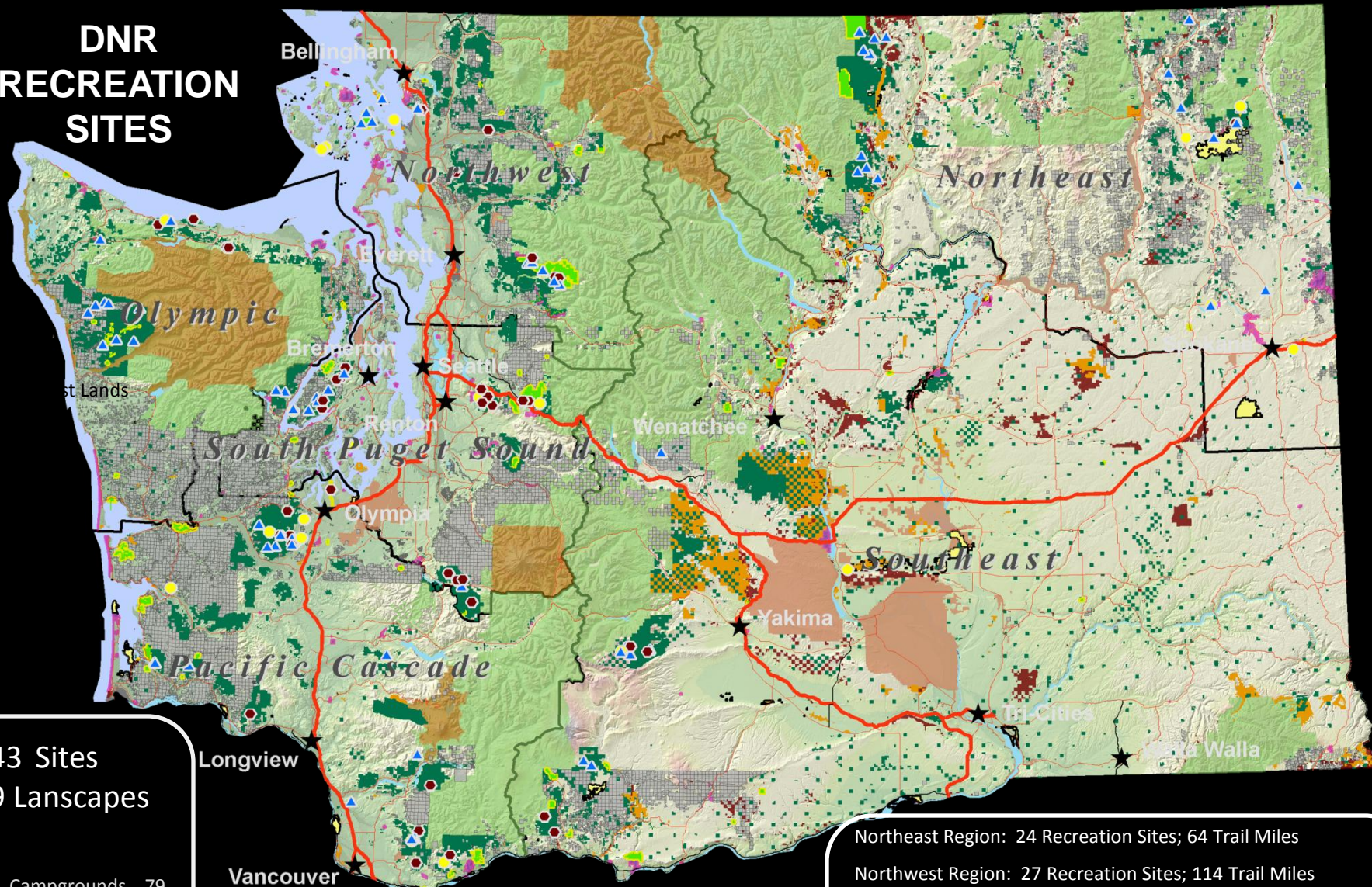


# **Outline of Presentation**

- **Current DNR recreational opportunities**
- **Scope of allowed access**
- **How access has changed over the years**
- **Costs associated with acquiring, maintaining and building access**
- **Opportunities for coordination between entities**
- **Additional information and public input regarding access**
- **Future demand for recreational access**









# DNR RECREATION SITES



143 Sites  
79 Landscapes

-  Campgrounds 79
-  Day Use Areas 22
-  Trailheads 42

-  DNR Trust Lands
-  US Forest Service
-  WA State Parks
-  DNR Natural Areas
-  WA State Fish & Wildlife Service
-  National Parks Service

Northeast Region: 24 Recreation Sites; 64 Trail Miles  
 Northwest Region: 27 Recreation Sites; 114 Trail Miles  
 Olympic Region: 15 Recreation Sites; 19 Trail Miles  
 Pacific Cascade Region: 33 Recreation Sites; 251 Trail Miles  
 South Puget Sound Region: 30 Recreation Sites; 457 Trail Miles  
 Southeast Region: 14 Recreation Sites; 108 Trail Miles

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map. However, due to changes in ownership and agency modification of data layers, plus the need to rely on data from outside the agency, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.



# Designated vs. Undesignated Trails and Facilities

- **DESIGNATED = DNR Authorized**
- **UNDESIGNATED = DNR Unauthorized**
  - No exact numbers
  - **Ex. Yacolt Trail Inventory:**
    - 45 miles of designated trails
    - 125 miles of undesignated trails
  - **Concerns:**
    - Higher environmental impacts
    - Safety concerns

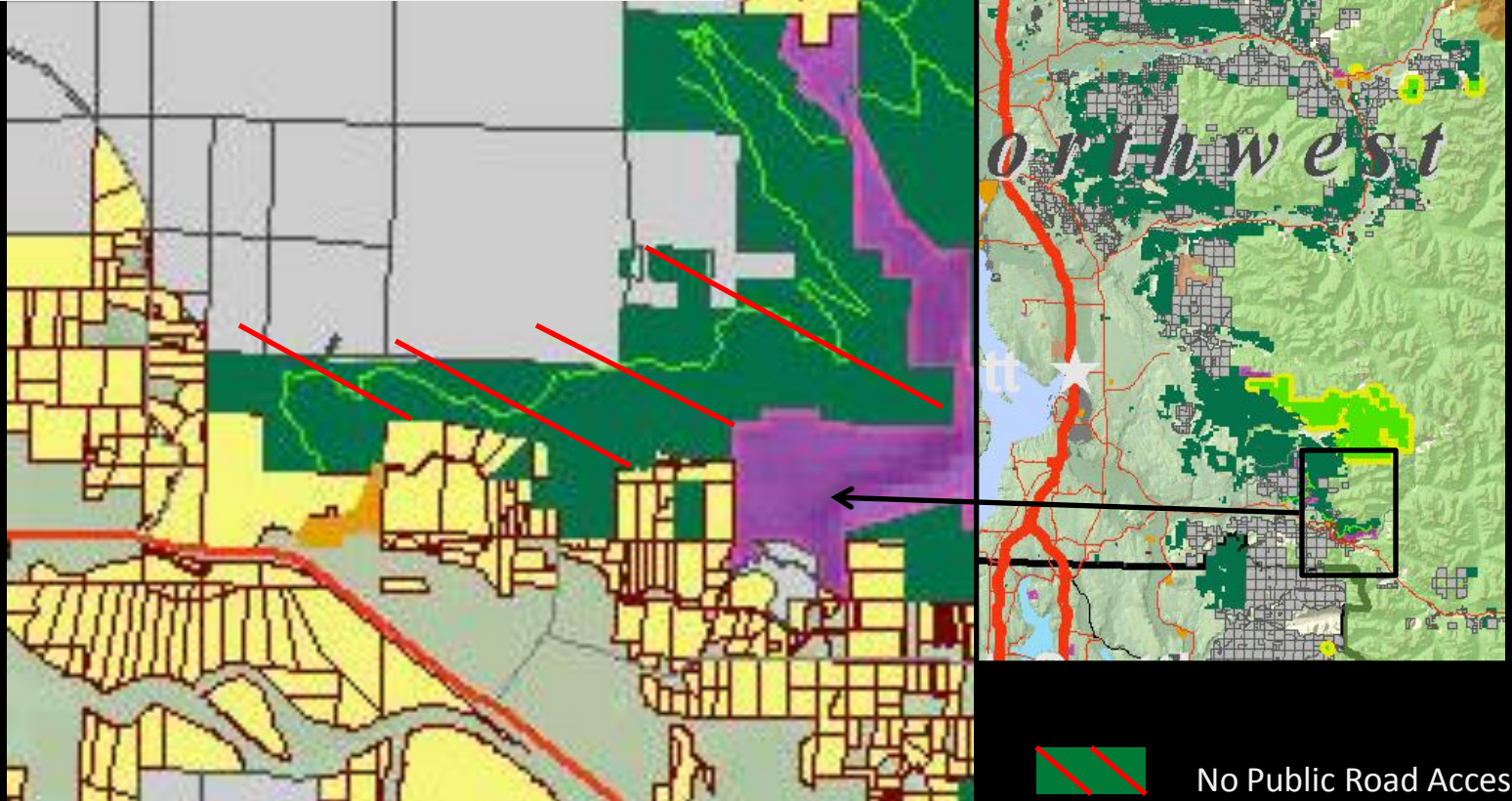




# DNR Managed Lands and Public Access

- **State trust lands:** Must be compatible with trust obligations
  - Federal Trust Lands (State Constitution & Federal Statute)
  - State Forest Lands (State Statute)
- **Aquatic Lands:** Balanced with other public benefits
- **Natural Areas:** Limited to low impact, and/or scientific and educational purposes

# Management vs. Public Access



## WA Industrial forestry:

(Weyerhaeuser; Longview Timber; Green Crow Corp; Hancock forest Mgmt; Manke Timber; Nature conservancy; Plum Creek; Pilchuck Tree Farm; Pope Resources; Port Blakely Tree Farms; Rainier Timber; Rayonier Timberlands; Sierra Pacific Holding; etc.....).

Source: University of WA forest Land Database, DRAFT RESULTS  
<http://www.ruraltech.org/gis/jfdb/>

-  No Public Road Access
-  DNR Managed Lands
-  Industrial Forestry
-  Small Forest Owners
-  State Parks



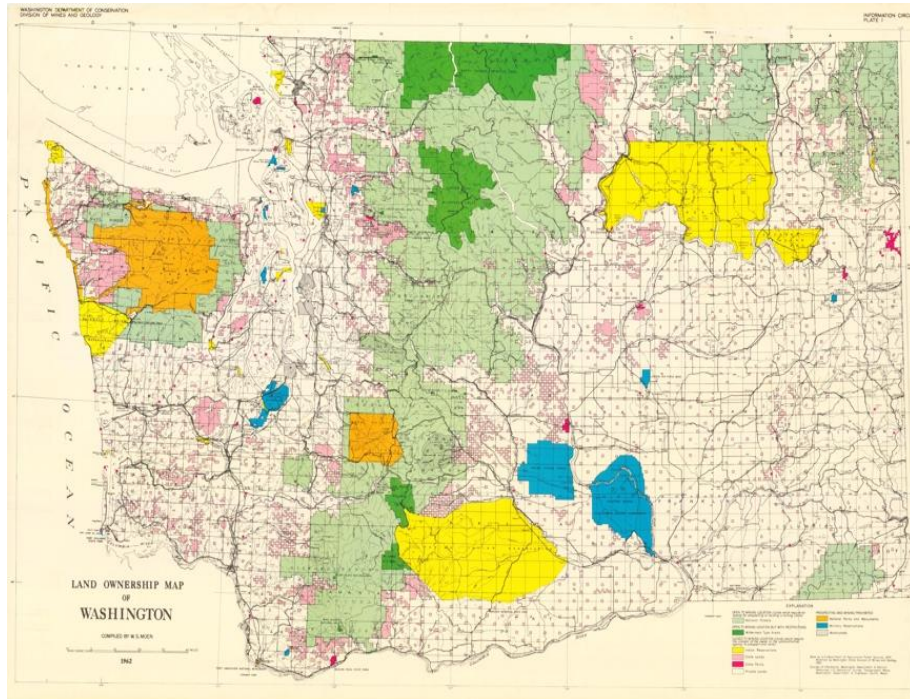
# Other Land Managers On Public Access

- **US Forest Service:** Must be part of a balanced multiple use concept
- **WA Fish and Wildlife:** Coincide with wildlife-management goals
- **State Parks:** May limit types of recreation for stewardship principles
- **Private landowners:** Cannot affect company ability to manage lands

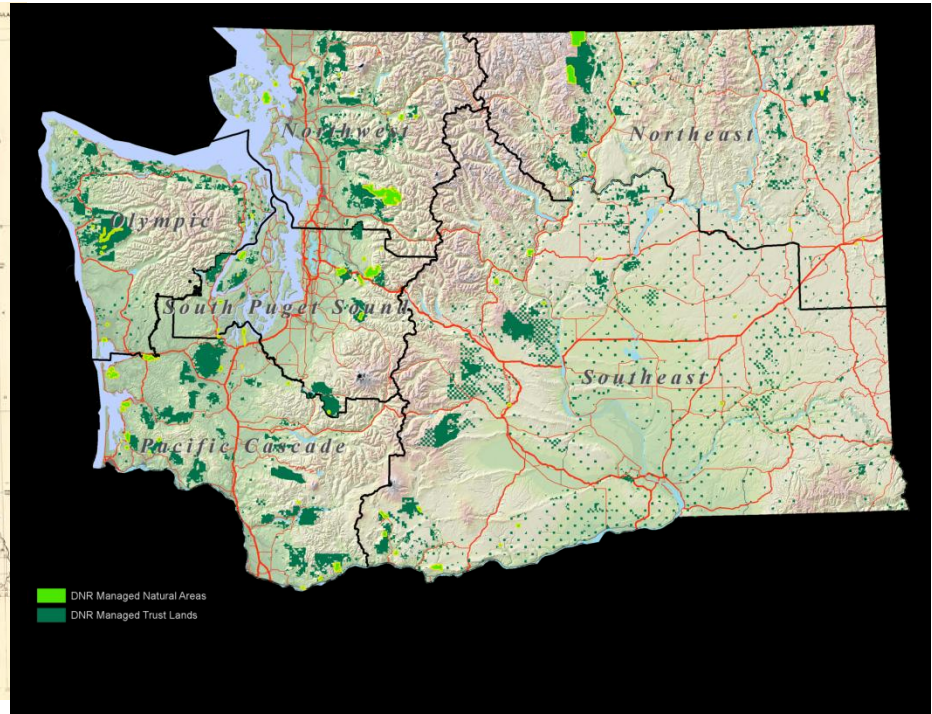




# State Lands over the Last 47 Years



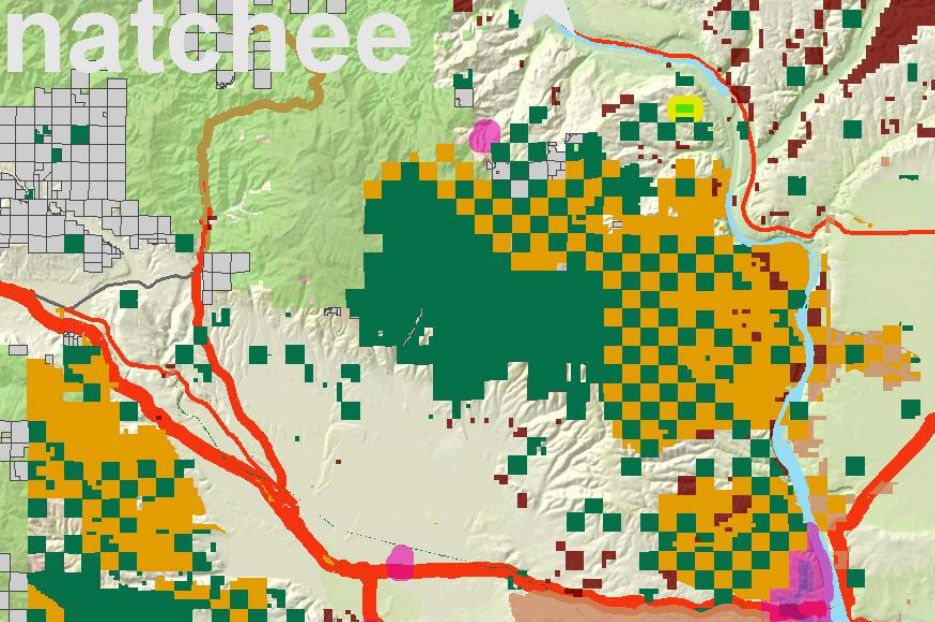
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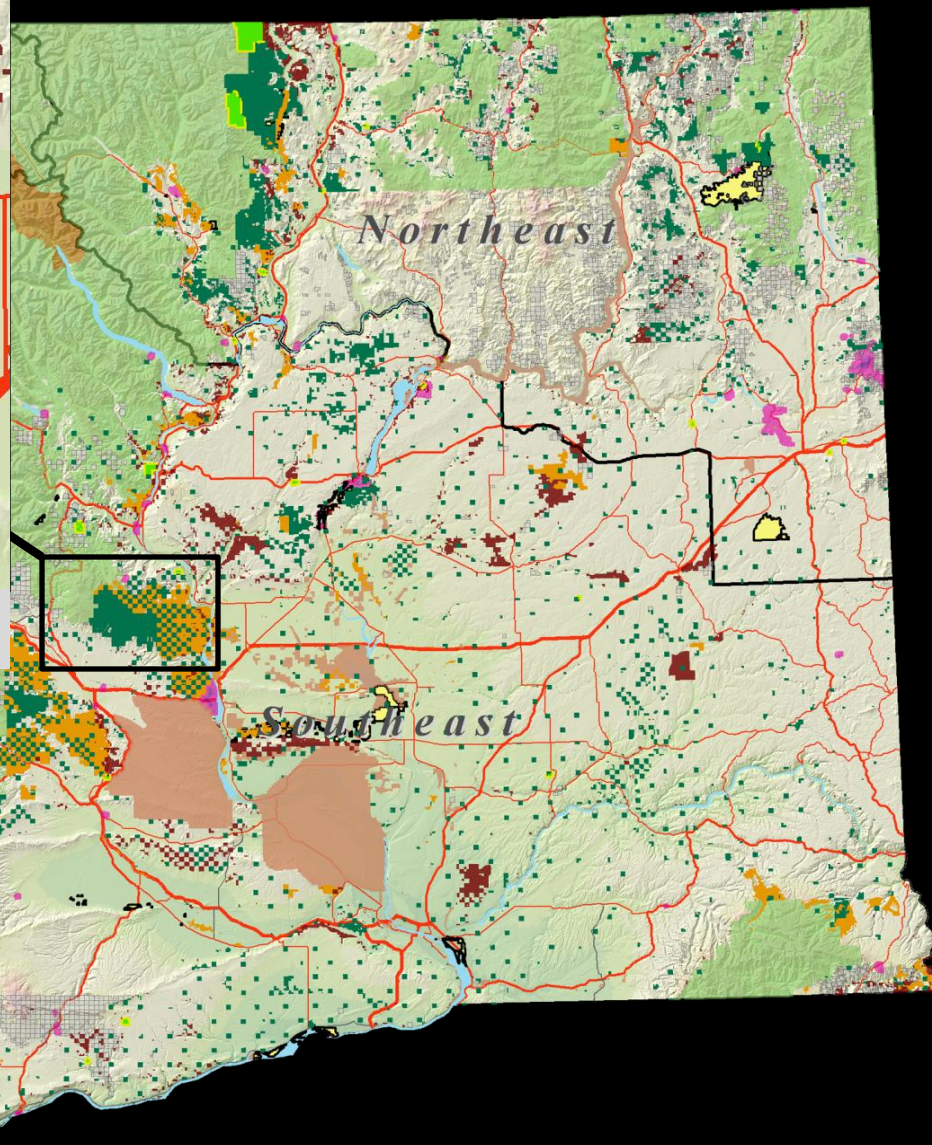
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# natchee



**Naneum Land Exchange – Blocking Up**



## WA Industrial forestry:

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Source: University of WA forest Land Database, DRAFT RESULTS  
<http://www.ruraltech.org/gis/jfdb/>

0 25 50 100 Miles

**DRAFT**



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# Cost of Providing Public Access

- **Purchasing access:** \$2,000-\$3,000 per acre of forest land
  - Highly variable, with easement easily exceeding land prices
- **Building Access:** Costs based on 100 feet of road
  - \$1585 for standard logging road
  - \$1975 for recreational access road
- **Maintaining Access:** \$1,000 per mile annually
- **Education and Enforcement:**
  - \$1.5 million Law enforcement officer (biennium)
  - \$550,000 litter pick up (biennium)
  - \$287,000 repairing vandalized property



# **Coordination Between Entities**

- **Planning:** Multi-stakeholder involvement
- **Maintenance and development:**
  - Individual and group volunteering
  - Shared WCC crews (WF&W, WSP, MTG)
- **Education and enforcement:**
  - ORV Safety Summit (WOHVA)
  - Local law enforcement agencies


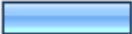







# Web Survey

- **873 responses**
- **3 Questions**




**1. How do you typically find information about accessing recreation facilities and trails on DNR-managed lands? Select all that apply.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
DNR's website		42.4%	364
Direct contact (phone or in person) with DNR Regional staff		13.8%	118
Website from user group/outdoor recreation association		60.8%	522
Local knowledge		59.2%	508
<b>Word of mouth</b>		<b>68.5%</b>	<b>588</b>
Other		10.0%	86
Other (please specify)  <a href="#">view</a>			121
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>858</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>15</b>




## 2. What kinds of information about access are you looking for?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Openings and closures		89.6%	759
How to get to the site		59.4%	503
What are my options when I get to the site (trails, campsites, etc.)		78.5%	665
Are reservations required?		43.1%	365
Other		13.6%	115
Other (please specify)  view			181
answered question			847
skipped question			26





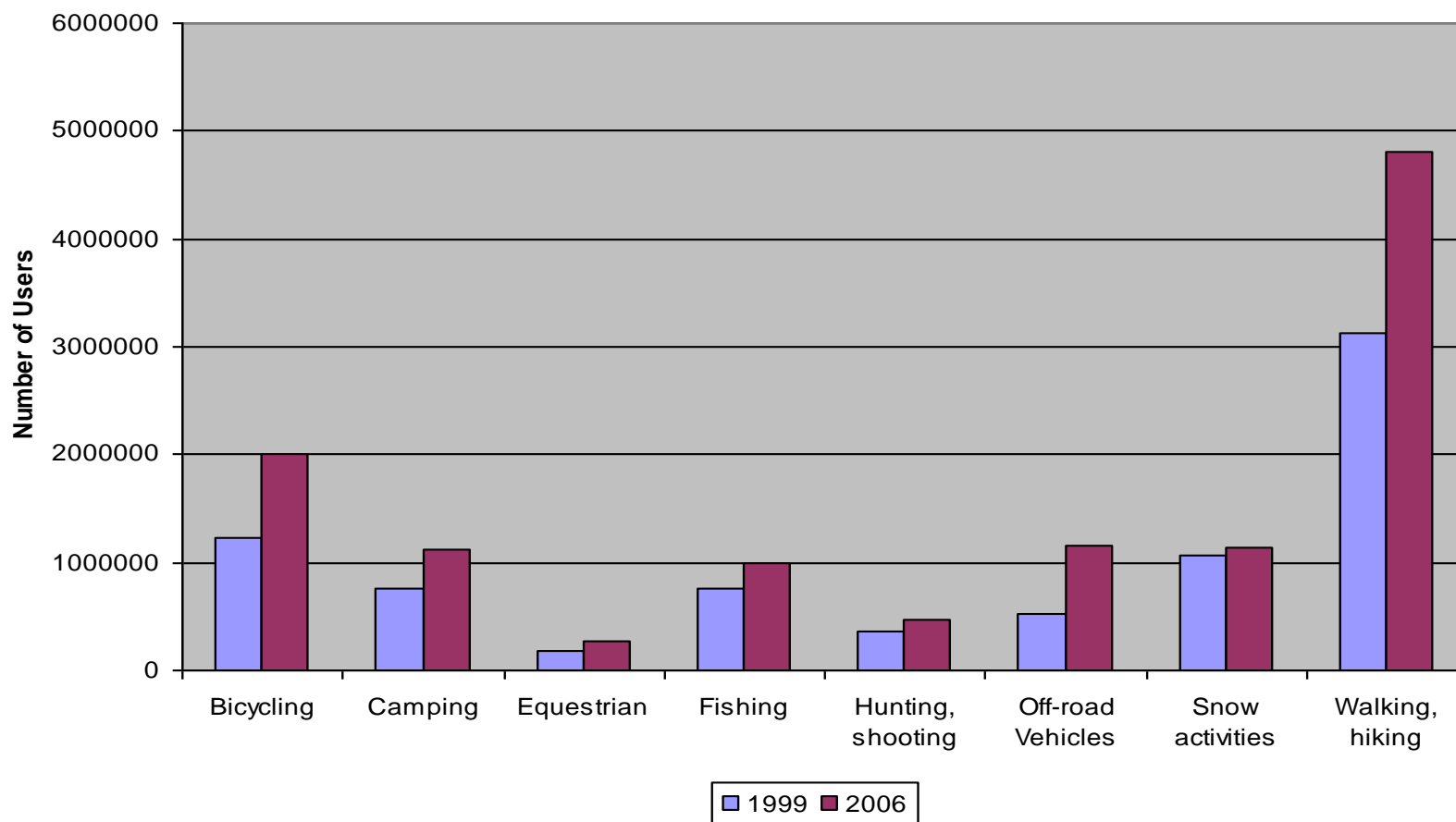
### 3. How would you prefer to find out about access to DNR-managed facilities and trails?

		Response Percent	Response Count
DNR's website		84.6%	716
E-mail update		45.4%	384
Text message		2.4%	20
Other social marketing options such as Twitter, RSS Feeds, etc.		7.0%	59
Signs posted at facilities		59.0%	499
Other		8.4%	71
Other (please specify)  view			113
<b>answered question</b>			<b>846</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>27</b>



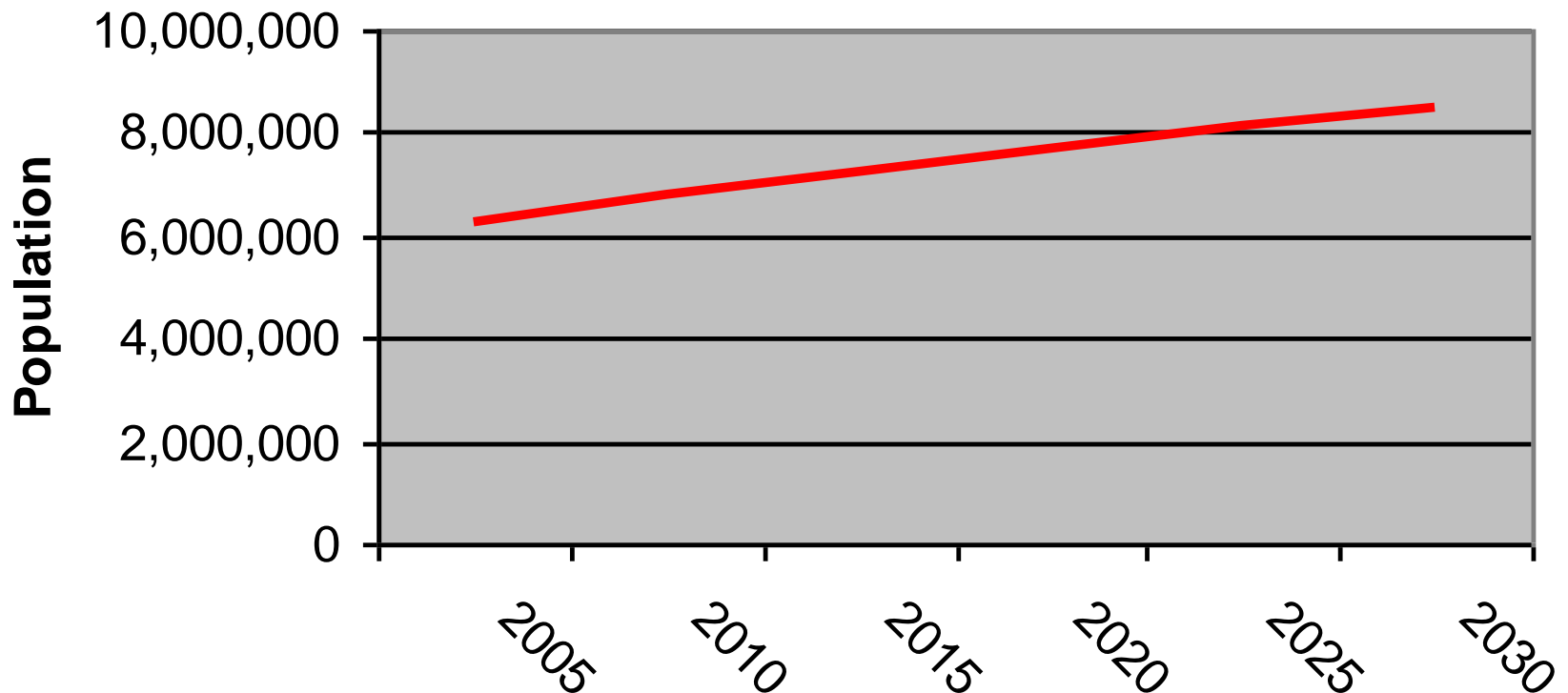
# Increasing Demand

**Increase In Recreational Users Statewide**





## Washington's Projected Population Growth





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# Questions?



# Brainstorm

- Are current facilities and level of access appropriate to support the Vision for sustainable recreation, established by this group?
- **VISION** The Sustainable Recreation Workgroup envisions a future in which lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offer distinct and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities within the overall fabric of recreation in Washington, attracting visitors from local communities, the region, the country and the world. Solid partnerships and a strong stewardship ethic among user groups, recreationists, private landowners, and government agencies help enhance enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences for everyone. Outdoor recreation on DNR-managed lands relies on sustainable funding from a variety of sources, as well as sound management and strategic planning. The public knows it can count on a range of DNR-managed lands to provide recreation, public revenue, healthy ecosystems, economic opportunities, and enhanced quality of life for current and future generations.





# Brainstorm

What should be the status of user-built trails on DNR-managed lands? How can they be managed (or not) to meet DNR's land management objectives and the aspirations of recreationists?



# Brainstorm

To what extent should access by different categories of recreational use, such as motorized and non-motorized, be separated or mixed on state-owned lands open to public access?



# Brainstorm

What additional access information  
do you need?



# Feedback

How did this meeting format  
work for you?



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# Planning for Next Meeting





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# Wrap-up



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# Thank you!